January 29, 2021

BILL: SB 76

TITLE: Climate Crisis and Education Act

POSITION: SUPPORT HEARING DATE: 2/2/2021

COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation

SPONSOR: Senator Benjamin Kramer

As students, AcClimate members see a worthwhile future stretched out before us. Every choice we make is to build a better tomorrow. We study instead of play so we can gain critical knowledge; we work long into the night so we can get good grades and a stable job. In many ways, we forgo the ignorance and lightheartedness of youth for the sake of ensuring our futures. We endure the demands of education because we have faith that it will lead to a better tomorrow for ourselves and our communities. How, then, can we accept the actions of our legislators when they fail to protect that promise of tomorrow?

By neglecting to pass effective climate legislation, our representatives have left our futures unguarded. We are already beginning to lose our homes, to suffer worse health, and to face the economic consequences from the unchecked use of fossil fuels. Each year that this committee waits to pass a thorough, equitable, and evidence-based policy addressing the climate crisis, our hopes for tomorrow grow dimmer.

Few bills have the power to safeguard the futures of an entire generation of Marylanders. This is one of them. By incentivizing the transition to renewable energy while protecting the consumer and reinvesting in our state, the Climate Crisis and Education Act restores our opportunity to create a better tomorrow.

For these reasons and more, AcClimate MD urges a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 76.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cc: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee